



**Small Business Advocacy Council
Tuesday, May 6, 2014
8:30 - 10:00AM
Commerce RI
Narragansett Conference Room
315 Iron Horse Way, Providence, RI**

Attendance

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts
Secretary of State Ralph A. Mollis
Commerce RI Executive Director Marcel Valois
Senator Joshua Miller
Peter Marino
Jan Brodie
Kathy McKeon
Mark Hayward
Jerri Moon Cantone
Cap Willey
Mark Deion
Gary Ezovski
Ron Caniglia
Miriam Ross
Bill McCourt
Matt Weldon
James Petell
Deedee Chatham
Janet Raymond
Robert Kalaskowski
Claudia Cardozo
Maureen Ewing
Chris Barnett
David Lucier
Terry Martisian
Sherri Carrera
Kelly Carello
Maria Tocco
Sadie DeCoursey
Vladimir Ibarra

I. Opening Remarks *Lieutenant Governor Roberts*

Chair Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 28th meeting. The motion was made, seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chair then introduced Kathy McKeon from the Diocese of Providence in her role as Chairperson of the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Taskforce. Ms. McKeon provided a brief overview of the ReAct employer resource guide to help support employees with caregiving responsibilities. Ms. McKeon explained that more than one in six American workers are also caregivers and ReAct seeks to create a supportive business environment where the challenges faced by caregivers, with adults with a chronic age-related disease are recognized by employers to better meet their personal and professional responsibilities. The ReAct coalition provides flexibility for the caregiving workforce as a matter of business necessity. For additional information please go to: <http://respectcaregivers.org>

Secretary of State (SOS) Mollis discussed the resources available on the SOS website, which anyone can sign up to receive email notices and services to the public and encouraged attendees to participate in the different workshops available in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. SOS Mollis highlighted one of the workshops helping veterans and reminded participants about the "We Mean Business Expo" on September 3rd at the Rhode Island Convention Center.

Commerce RI Director Valois reviewed the recent Commerce RI report on "Understanding the Economic Development Opportunity & Impact of Climate Change."

Director Valois explained how better understanding the risk and opportunities in adapting to a changing climate and recover from a disaster, lead to better preparation for the economic impact of climate variability, and can improve our economy, making Rhode Island a leader in climate variability planning and adaptation. However, these changes must be constructed so that the overall business cost is neutral to businesses thereby strengthening the state's economic growth and improving competitiveness, while protecting taxpayer's interests.

II. Legislative Update

Senator Miller and Mark Hayward provided a legislative update. Senator Miller discussed several Bills including:

- a. S2252: legislatively establishes a state workforce investment board consisting of 19 members appointed by the Governor with the advise and consent of the Senate. The bill would enhance strategic planning and codify an important body into law.
- b. S2216: exempting the entire job development fund from the indirect cost recoveries on restricted receipt accounts.
- c. S2159: is a resolution requesting the Bridge.jobs program be expanded to include high school students and to partner with the state apprenticeship council.
- d. S2825: sets reimbursements rates for participation in the non-trade apprenticeship program and permits the human resource development council to establish rules and regulations for the program.
- e. S2949: authorizes the Board of Education to re-imagine the approach to career and technical education statewide and to implement up to two model sites, and funding for start-up costs.
- f. S2968: establishes with the department of elementary and secondary education on adult education waiting list and allocation of one million dollars in 2015 fiscal year.
- g. S2858: authorizes the Office of Regulatory Reform to review state and local regulatory and permitting processes and provide online maps, flow charts, and other visualizations.
- h. S2457: aligns the review of administrative rules with the refilling of rules and regulatory process.

- i. S2480: sub A the bill amends the process of submissions of economic impact statements, and eliminate a number of exclusions which are set forth in the existing statute.

Mr. Hayward was pleased that Rhode Island is the only state in New England with an increase in the number of loans in excess of ten million. He reminded members that the annual Block Island Trip will take place on June 25th. Mr. Hayward asked the Small Business Administration chairs for updates:

SBA Regulatory chair Mr. Ezovski discussed Senate bill 2251, which would allow Rhode Island employers flexibility over holidays and was encouraged by several of the entrepreneurship bills and keeping the bar high in regards to regulatory reform.

SBA Taxes chair Mr. Willey has been working with the House and Senate on various tax issues including lowering the corporate tax rate and reviewing the TDI program at the RI Department of Labor and Training.

III. OMB Update

Chair Roberts introduced Peter Marino, Director of the Rhode Island Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under his direct supervision are the Budget Office, the Office of Regulatory Reform, the Federal Grant Management Office and the Office of Performance Management. OMB's mission is to provide ongoing, transparent, non-partisan fiscal analysis, management support, and analytical research to the public, the Governor, the General Assembly and state departments and agencies. Mr. Marino holds a Masters in Public Administration from Syracuse University (Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs) and a Bachelor's in Science from James Madison University.

Mr. Marino provided a regulatory review period three-process update by explaining how creating an environment in Rhode Island where small businesses can grow and thrive is vital to the health of our state economy and the well-being of its citizens. To improve the overall climate for businesses, Governor Chafee and the General Assembly tasked the OMB Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR) with coordinating a comprehensive review of the state's regulations in order to identify, streamline, and minimize the adverse impact of regulation on the small business community. This effort is a critical piece of the work being done on numerous fronts to improve economic conditions in Rhode Island.

The Governor accelerated the review, acknowledging how important it is to be responsive to Rhode Island's small business concerns. ORR's Period Three findings on the regulatory reform process reinforce and expand upon those from Period Two. Reform efforts have continued to advance. Regulatory entities have identified 98 regulations with small business impact to either repeal or modify. During the third period, ORR deployed its new small business impact model. The updated model now considers not just Direct, but also Indirect and Decision-Based impacts of regulations on small business.

This enhanced model demonstrates the interconnectedness of regulation, as well as the various ways regulation can have an impact – both positive and negative – on the state economy. The model also highlights the need to carefully consider the different types of impact that both legislation and regulation can have on businesses. ORR now has all submissions, as entities submitted all requirements by their final Period Four deadline. For its next period, ORR will review these remaining submissions, and incorporate them into this enhanced model to create a comprehensive baseline picture of Rhode Island's regulatory landscape.

IV. **The LINK – 195 Commission**

Chair Roberts introduced Jan Brodie who received her MBA in Finance from The Wharton School in Philadelphia, and her Masters in Architecture from the Graduate School of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Jan also holds a M.S. in Administration from University Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and a B.A. from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Ms. Brodie discussed how the 195 Commission is the single point of ownership authority for sales and permitting providing the opportunity to build nineteen acres, with flexible zoning, supporting three million square feet of new construction. Named The LINK, the one linear mile provides a unique opportunity for urban mixed-use development of over three million square feet of new construction. The area is located at the nexus of university/hospital uses (Brown Medical, JWU, URI, RISD, Lifespan/Care NE) and the project has the political will and endorsement of both the City and State and the master permitting for CRMC and RIDEM processes.

The mission of The LINK is to foster economic development on the I-195 and beyond, and to generate job creation opportunities that embrace the city's demographics by creating an environment that encourages high-value users to build well-designed structures that enhance the value of surrounding neighborhoods while augmenting the sense of place.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

2014 SBAC Meetings

(All meetings held at 8:30 am; Commerce RI)

September 16

December 2